REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 remain in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 14, 21, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bearden (20030086425).

Currently pending claim 1 discloses a method of managing one or more local resource properties, each having a value, by one or more managed network devices in a network comprising a network management system and a central data store, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) monitoring the value of said one or more local resource properties;

This limitation was rejected based on [0143] of Bearden which discloses:

"[0143] Each bridge records the values for Bridge ID, Bridge Port, Designated Root, Designated Bridge, Designated Port, Path Cost, and Root Path Cost for each port in the Spanning Tree Port Table. The values are updated by exchanging messages with its neighbors. The messages allow each bridge to find (a) the root bridge and (b) the shortest path (i.e., the lowest cost path) to the root. The messages include the bridge's Bridge ID and Bridge Port, the Designated Root, and Root Path Cost values it has learned thus far to each neighbor."

As such, it appears the Examiner is equating the term "one or more local resource properties" with Bridge ID, Bridge Port, Designated Root, Designated Bridge, Designated Port, Path Cost, and Root Path Cost for each port in the Spanning Tree Port Table.

(b) generating a learning event report comprising the value of at least one of the one or more local resource properties; and

This limitation was rejected based on [0006] and [0225] of Bearden which disclose:

"[0006] The present invention relates to techniques for data network topology discovery, data network monitoring and analysis, and for reporting, display and visualization of such data network topology, analysis and monitoring. More particularly, the present invention relates to

topology discovery, analysis, monitoring and reporting, display and visualization of operations in data networks using protocols such as the Internet Protocol (IP) for Voice over IP (VoIP) and other (e.g., multimedia) network applications, and for configuring and provisioning IP networks for such applications."

"[0225] During the call generation phase, a call control module automates the initiation of calls and collection of QoS statistics. Endpoint software must be installed on a computer to send and receive synthetic traffic and to collect and report statistics about this traffic to the call control module. Let E.sub.1 and E.sub.2 be two endpoints in the network running the endpoint software. To initiate a synthetic call between E.sub.1 and E.sub.2 at time t, the call control module sends control information, including call parameters, at time t to the control agents running on both E.sub.1 and E.sub.2. E.sub.1 and E.sub.2 execute the calls and report call statistics back to the call control module. The endpoints compute delay, jitter, and packet loss statistics (such as minimum, maximum and average for each 5 second interval) for each call. The call control module stores the call statistics in the data store 340."

Applicant does not believe paragraphs [0006] and [0225] describe "generating a learning event report." Perhaps the Examiner is equating the term "generating a learning event report" with the collection of QoS statistics. Applicant's limitation includes "generating a learning event report comprising the value of at least one of the one or more local resource properties." Bearden, however, does not disclose collecting QoS statistics based on Bridge ID, Bridge Port, Designated Root, Designated Bridge, Designated Port, Path Cost, and Root Path Cost.

(c) transmitting the learning event report to the central data store;
wherein the value of at least one of the one or more local resource properties is recorded at the central data store and made available to the network management system for asynchronous processing.

This limitation was rejected based on [0099] and [0207] of Bearden which disclose:

"[0099] FIG. 4 shows an illustrative system architecture for application of the framework phases described above. In FIG. 4, arrow directions correspond to typical directions of respective information flows. The illustrative system of FIG. 4 comprises a functional block for each of the main framework elements, viz., topology discovery 310, element load monitoring 320, call generation & call quality monitoring 330, and analysis (with associated visualization tools) 350. Each of these functional units is shown in FIG. 4 in communication with data store 340 and an illustrative target network 300. Below we describe each component. The functional elements 310, 320, 330, 340 and 350 will be realized in accordance with particular embodiments of the present invention as general purpose processors under the control of respective software modules. In appropriate cases, resources of such processor(s) and software modules will be shared between or among the several functional elements."

"[0207] An example way to collect network utilization measurements is by polling switching devices in the network using SNMP. Other ways are telnet/CLI or LDAP. The network device monitoring component 320 of the illustrative embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. 4 accesses the network topology data stored in the data store by the network discovery phase to obtain the list of switching devices to monitor. In this section the term device refers to a switching device. Data collection on these devices in the network involves SNMP MIBs that are indicative of traffic and utilization. More specifically, device monitoring component 320 polls SNMP agents on discovered devices to collect values for two types of MIB variables. The first type is device-specific MIB variables that pertain to the overall device, such as the total number of input packets received on all interfaces. The second type is interface specific pertaining to an individual interface, such as the total number of octets received on an interface."

Applicant does not believe paragraphs [0099] and [0207] describe "transmitting the learning event report to the central data store; wherein the value of at least one of the one or more local resource properties is recorded at the central data store and made available to the network management system for asynchronous processing."

Bearden discloses collecting values for MIB variables that pertain to the overall device, such as the total number of input packets received on all interfaces and that pertain to an individual interface, such as the total number of octets received on an interface. Applicant does not believe that these values are equivalent to "the local resource properties" of claim 1.

Various differing elements of Bearden appear to have been used to equate to the consistent term "local resource properties" of claim 1. Further, certain elements of claim 1, such as "a learning event report" do not appear to be taught or disclosed by Bearden. As such, Applicant believes claim 1, as well as the claims that depend from it, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 14, 21, and 26 include some or all of the above limitations and, per the information presented above, Applicant believes claims 14, 21, and 26, and the claims that depend from them, are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that the foregoing places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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